

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 890

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Honorable Charles D. Susano, Jr., upon his exemplary tenure as State Appellate Judge for the Tennessee Court of Appeals – Eastern Section.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to honor an outstanding jurist who, having faithfully discharged his duties for many years, is embarking upon a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's longest serving State Appellate Judge, the Honorable Charles D. Susano, Jr., has rendered sterling service on the bench of the Tennessee Court of Appeals – Eastern Section for more than twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville, Judge Charles Susano attended Knoxville Catholic High School and graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Notre Dame in 1958; and

WHEREAS, after proudly serving his country for two years in the United States Army, Judge Susano enrolled in the Tennessee College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and the *Tennessee Law Review*; and

WHEREAS, Judge Susano graduated from law school in 1963 and served as one of the inaugural law clerks to the Tennessee Supreme Court, working for then Chief Justice Hamilton Burnett; and

WHEREAS, first licensed in 1964, Judge Charles Susano practiced law in Knoxville for over thirty years as a partner with Bernstein, Susano, and Stair and later Susano, Sheppard, Giordano, and Swanson; and

WHEREAS, during his years in private practice, he served on a number of nonprofit boards and was a member of the Advisory Commission to the Tennessee Supreme Court on Civil Rules; and

WHEREAS, Judge Susano was permanently paralyzed from the chest down as the result of a fall in June 1993, but he never let his disability keep him from serving his community and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in March 1994, Governor Ned McWherter appointed Charles D. Susano, Jr., to the Tennessee Court of Appeals – Eastern Section; he was subsequently elected statewide that same year and won re-election in 1998, 2006, and 2014; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected jurist, Judge Susano was a member of the Court of the Judiciary from 1999-2003, served as Presiding Judge of the Court of Appeals from 2012-2014, and rendered sterling service as a Special Judge on the Tennessee Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, during his extensive career, Judge Charles Susano drafted over 1,000 judicial opinions and authored *Remembering U.S. District Judge Robert L. Taylor*, a biography about a notable East Tennessee federal judge; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Judge Susano received the Justice Frank F. Drowota II Outstanding Judicial Service Award in 2017, the Appellate Judge of the Year from the American Board of Trial Advocates, Tennessee Chapter, in 2003, and the Courage in the Face of Adversity Award from the Knoxville Bar Association in 2004; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Judge Susano is most grateful for the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife of fifty-five years, Carolyn; children, Stephen, Maria, and Charles III; and grandchildren, Madison, Sydney, Hanna, Sophie, Jacob, and Hudson; and

WHEREAS, during the course of his brilliant career, Judge Charles D. Susano, Jr. has distinguished himself as an attorney and judge committed to the highest precepts of justice, and he should be honored on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Judge Charles D. Susano, Jr., on his decades of distinguished service on the Tennessee Court of Appeals – Eastern Section and extend to him our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.